

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 497

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Captain Jeff Burchfield of the Blount County Sheriff's Office upon receiving the Albert Pierce Medal for Heroism.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of public service, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding those in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jeff Burchfield of the Blount County Sheriff's Office is one such outstanding public servant and esteemed member of the Sheriff's Office Dive Team who has devoted twenty-three years of his life to active law enforcement duty; and

WHEREAS, Captain Burchfield recently responded to the needs of his fellow citizens with great bravery and ability and deserves proper recognition for his heroism; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2011, two individuals were in grave danger of being pulled into the Rockford Dam's hydraulic system when their small boat overturned near the spillway on the Little River; and

WHEREAS, with great presence of mind, Captain Burchfield quickly maneuvered through the brush and was able to shimmy across a pipe, dropping down onto a small platform near the vessel with only a safety vest for protection from the treacherous waterways; and

WHEREAS, with the stranded boaters having only minutes left to escape, Jeff Burchfield heaved two rescue bags with long ropes attached to them to the distressed citizens, keeping them from becoming part of a deadly statistic; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his courage and strength in the face of danger, Captain Burchfield was awarded the Albert Pierce Medal for Heroism on November 3, 2011, in Orlando, Florida and became only the only the fourth person to receive this prestigious honor since 1972; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jeff Burchfield performed his duties with the utmost care, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding, and he deserves proper recognition for his heroism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Captain Jeff Burchfield of the Blount County Sheriff's Office upon receiving the prestigious Albert Pierce Medal for Heroism, commend him for his meritorious service, and offer our sincere appreciation for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.